previous year is available and the same is given herebelow:-

Period	Incidents of train dacoity
January to May, 1996	45
January to May, 1997	29

(c) Registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime in the trains is the responsibility of the Government Railway Police (GRP) which functions under the control of respective State Governments/Union Territories Administrations. It is their responsibilities to ensure security of passengers in the trains. The Central Government, however, sends advisories and provides financial assistance to the State Government to strengthen their policing intrastructure.

Desecration of the Statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in Mumbai

1636. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the act of vandalism resorted to by some mischievous elements who desecrated the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in Mumbai leading to protest action by the dalits and police firing on them resulting in the loss of eleven precious lives and injuries to several; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) As per available information, on 11.7.97, at about 05.30 hours it was noticed by some people of Ramabai Ambedkar Colony located on Eastern Express Highway near Ghatkopar that the statue of Dr. Babasahe Ambedkar had been desecrated by garlanding it with a garland of Chappals. Huge crowds immediately collected in large numbers and obstructed the Eastern Express highway. Police Control Room on coming to know about the incident rushed Police Mobiles and available SRPF, Striking Force Mobiles. Available Officers including ACP Vikhroli also reached the spot. In the mean time the mob numbering more than 4000 had become very violent and was indulging in heavy stone throwing on two police vehicles and arson. Two private luxury buses were set on fire. One gas tanker was also attempted to be set on fire but police intervened and prevented a major calamity. The violent mob could not be controlled by requests, warnings and repeated lathi charge. At least 50 rounds were reported to have been fired in which 10 persons were killed.

On July 12, police opened fire at Kurla (Mumbai) when a mob attempted to break open some shops, killing one person taking the toll in police firing in Mumbai to eleven persons. The Ministry of Home Affairs kept in touch with the Maharashtra Government to monitor the developments. A judicial Commission of Inquiry has since been appointed to enquire into the incidents. The terms of reference of the Commission of Inquiry include, among other things, whether use of force including firing was justified or otherwise. The matter has also since been discussed in the Parliament during the current session.

Assault on Journalist

1637. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Journalist assaulted" which appeared in the 'Statesman' dated the 24th June, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of the incident; and

(c) what action has been taken against the guilty persons?